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PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHDA RUEHDBU RUEHDF RUEHFL RUEHIK RUEHKW RUEHLA

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9123

INFO RUEHZN/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0053

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SENSITIVE

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EUR/NCE. NEA/ELA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL KDEM PHUM SY EUN EZ

SUBJECT: CZECHS AGREE THAT UPCOMING SYRIAN ELECTION WILL
NOT BE DEMOCRATIC

REF: STATE 71071

¶1. (SBU) Czech MFA Syria desk officer Jaromir Marek told Poloff on May 25 that the Czech Republic agrees that the upcoming presidential election in Syria will not be free and fair. He chuckled at the very idea of using the word "election" in connection with the event, observing that it is really a "referendum" in which the only possible "vote" is "yes." Marek said the Czech Republic has no official position on the Syrian election, other than the view that Syria is not a democratic country. Marek said the Czechs focus their attention on human rights abuses in Syria.

GRABER